

## WIPP Quick Facts

(As of 07-23-06)

**4,835**

Shipments received since opening

**39,896**

Cubic meters of waste disposed

**80,811**

Containers disposed in the underground



T.J. Saiz and John Moffat add an auger steel extension to the borehole drilling machine.

## RH Waste Series

### Site Operations kicks off RH integrated facility checkout

On June 29, Operations conducted the first phase of a three-phase Integrated Facility Checkout (IFC) for remote-handled (RH) TRU waste. The IFC is a comprehensive evaluation of readiness conducted by members of the RH Operational Readiness Review (ORR) Plant Management Team (PMT) to evaluate the site's readiness to receive and dispose of RH TRU waste.



Richard Graves operates the controls while T. J. Saiz (left) and Sonny Salazar (right) monitor the borehole drilling machine.

The results of the IFC, along with the affidavits completed during the Line Management Assessment, form the basis for a decision by WTS General Manager Dick Raaz to authorize the start of the contractor ORR, which is scheduled to begin next month.

Phase I of the IFC focused on readiness of Underground Operations to drill the boreholes required for RH TRU waste disposal. Under the leadership of Dale Parrish, WTS Underground Operations Integration manager, the borehole drilling team put on an impressive demonstration that convinced the PMT that Underground Operations is ready to receive RH TRU waste.

Hardy Bellows, WTS Waste Operations manager, lead a review team that included Jon Hoff, Tom Ferguson, and Wille Most. Bellows praised the drill team's safety awareness, mastery of equipment and careful control of the work area, noting that the team's pre-job brief was a particular strong point.

George Basabilvaso, CBFO Director for the Office of Disposal, is overseeing the site readiness process for RH TRU waste. He, too, was pleased with the drill team's performance. "The team did a very good job of communicating. Their use of safe work practices was impressive throughout the RH borehole drilling demonstration."

Unlike contact-handled TRU waste containers that are neatly stacked in the open drift of the disposal room, RH TRU waste canisters will be inserted into pre-drilled

boreholes in the disposal room rib (walls) and sealed with a concrete plug. The five-member drill team completed the borehole demonstration in good time and without error.

The process took approximately four hours from equipment setup to completion, said Parrish. "Credit goes to the entire team for flawlessly completing the full borehole drilling evolution." WTS drill team members are Richard Graves, Sonny Salazar, John Moffat, T.J. Saiz and Tommy Warren.

Phase II of the IFC will kick off in the weeks ahead to assess readiness to conduct RH TRU waste handling operations using the RH-72B road cask, followed by Phase III evaluation of CNS 10-160B operations.

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## Brookhaven waste completes its journey to WIPP

Some journeys take longer than others. But no matter how long it may take, the outcome for defense-related transuranic waste is still the same.



Drum BN10050088 prior to leaving BNL last year.

Drum BN10050088 sits half a mile underground in Panel 3, Room 3 of the WIPP repository, where it will remain forever. That's a common statement for a drum at WIPP. Out of the 80,000 plus containers disposed, there are more than 67,000 55-gallon drums that look just like it. But this drum stands out, because of its unique history.

TRU TeamWorks readers may remember this drum, because it was the only drum of TRU waste at the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in Upton, NY. The waste in the drum consisted of eight one-gallon paint cans of plutonium ash and weighed only 83 pounds.

BNL officials determined that the waste was generated by solidification experiments on incinerator ash from the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site. Once it was shipped, however, the waste's itinerary was directly to WIPP.

The waste left BNL on July 13, 2005 in a HalfPACT shipping container and headed west for the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Plant at Idaho National Laboratory (INL). The shipment was notable, not only because it removed BNL's TRU waste, but because it was the first use of the HalfPACT.

The drum's brief hiatus in Idaho was halted by a flurry of activity since January to ready the waste for shipment to WIPP. Coring of the ash waste and analyzing it was completed by late January. In February, the WTS Central Characterization Project at INL completed characterization of the waste. And by June, a Waste Stream Profile Form was completed and approved on the drum, leading to its certification on June 27.

The drum departed INL for WIPP on June 30, again inside a HalfPACT, but this time it traveled with five other drums of waste and one dunnage, or empty, drum. Also onboard the trailer were two TRUPACT-ILs that carried six 100-gallon drums each. The waste arrived at WIPP on July 2 and was disposed underground the same day. For drum BN10050088, the journey to WIPP has finally ended.

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## National Champ



Photo

by Craig Heine (WTS)

Curtis Sanders, III (WTS) celebrates national championship honors in the BG4 Bench Competition at the National Metal/Non-Metal Mine Rescue Competition held in Reno, NV on July 13. Corporate sponsor DXP provided Sanders with the national championship trophy and the national championship traveling trophy. Sanders also received the Draegerman trophy from Draeger Safety Incorporated and a national championship trophy from the Southwest Mine Association.

Looking on in the background is Craig Herndon, WTS safety manager, David Dye, acting administrator for the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), and Felix Quintana, administrator of the Coal Mine Safety and Health Division of MSHA.

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## Pollution Prevention Success Story

### Team uses P2 fundamentals to save time and money

When the recently constructed East Road cut off access to Water Quality Sampling Program (WQSP) Well # 3, another way was needed to access Well # 3 to meet WIPP water sampling requirements. Four alternative road sites were evaluated in terms of the resources needed for construction, completion time, costs and environmental impacts.

A team of WIPP employees determined that the best option was to construct the connector road on a previously reclaimed road site and to use the caliche from an existing, nearby well pad rather than purchasing new material.



Do you have or know of a good P2 story to tell? Contact Judy McLemore at Ext. 8972 or by e-mail.

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## Happy Birthday Wishes!

**Deb Biscaino (L&M)**  
July 20

**Wille Most (WRES)**  
July 23

**Koreen Guillermo (WRES)**  
July 28

**Esther Najjar (WTS)**  
July 28

**Colleen Navarrete (L&M)**  
July 29

**Yolanda Navarrete (WTS)**  
July 30

**Alberta Farmer (L&M)**  
August 1

**Craig Simmons (WTS)**  
August 2

### Is your birthday on our list?

Employee birthdays are submitted once and must be re-approved for publication by you every year. Please submit birth dates to the TRU TeamWorks staff at:

[TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws](mailto:TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws).



The completed connector road (above) was constructed using materials from a reclaimed well pad site (left).

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the approach and agreed that reusing the previously reclaimed road site was environmentally preferable.

The project proved to be an excellent example of how pollution prevention and WIPP projects go hand-in-hand to protect the environment.

### Pollution Prevention highlights:

- ⌘ Consider the 3 R's in all WIPP projects: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Incorporating pollution prevention principles in the early stages of project planning provides the basis for agreement and quick approval from a regulatory agency.
- ⌘ Consider alternative sources for acquiring materials. In this case, caliche was available for reuse/recycle. Using caliche saved costs and made valuable use of materials that would have had to be managed during reclamation.
- ⌘ Consider the impact to the environmental. Minimize disturbance of new land, thus minimizing disturbance of pristine or archeologically sensitive areas, and Lesser Prairie Chicken habitats.

Road construction was completed ahead of schedule, allowing sampling at Well # 3 to be completed within the regulatory time frame. Through careful planning and implementation, the team saved \$8,000 in material expense, and construction time was reduced by nearly 50 percent – compared to “traditional” road construction. Pollution prevention also reduced fuel use (and pollution generated) to support the construction.

The plan was carried out with the full support of Operations personnel, who executed the construction work with excellence. Congratulations to the following team members on a job well done: Royce Allen (WTS), Jim Harvey (WTS), Gary Morrison (WTS), Bill Sherrell (WTS), Ron Richardson (WRES) and Gene Valett (WRES).

**Submitted by Judy McLemore (WRES), P2 Coordinator**

## Got MSDS?

Most of us are familiar with the popular add campaign “Got Milk?” where a celebrity has a milk mustache painted on his or her face. Should an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) inspector show up at WIPP and ask Got MSDS?, what would the response be?

The top 25 most frequently violated regulations for Part 1910, General Industry are listed below. These are federal statistics and are the result of violations that occurred in states that are regulated by OSHA. Citations for states that operate their own occupational safety and health programs are not included. Notice how many violations were related to Hazard Communication (HazCom) issues in 2005 (bolded text below).

Six of the top 25 OSHA violations in 2005 were related to HazCom, contributing in part to \$34 million in penalties in addition to potential unsafe conditions for personnel. HazCom issues are typically in the top ten OSHA violations every year.



Every year, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration compiles statistics on violations of its standards. During 2005, there were 105,817 violations ranging across all industry segments under federal OSHA jurisdiction.

1. **Hazard communication** - Written program / 1910.1200(e)(1)
2. Machine guarding - Types of guarding / 1910.212(a)(1)
3. **Hazard communication** - Employer must provide hazard information and training / 1910.1200(h)(1)
4. Machine guarding - Point of operation guarding / 1910.212(a)(3)(ii)
5. First aid - Eye wash/emergency shower facilities not in near proximity to employees / 1910.151(c)
6. Guarding floor openings, platforms, and runways / 1910.23(c)(1)
7. Lockout/tag out - Establish an energy control program / 1910.147(c)(1)
8. Abrasive wheel machinery - Exposure adjustment/safety guards / 1910.215(b)(9)
9. **Hazard communication** - MSDS available for each hazardous chemical / 1910.1200(g)(1)
10. Lockout/tag out - Written energy control procedures / 1910.147(c)(4)(i)
11. Respiratory protection - Provide medical evaluation prior to fit test and respirator use / 1910.134(e)(1)
12. Respiratory protection - Establish a written program / 1910.134(c)(1)
13. Electric - Wiring methods, components and equipment-cabinets, boxes/conductors / 1910.305(b)(1)
14. **Hazard communication** - Employee information and training / 1910.1200(h)

15. Powered industrial trucks - Operator training / 1910.178(l)(1)(i)
16. **Hazard communication** - Labeling containers / 1910.1200(f)(5)(i)
17. Mechanical power transmission - Pulley guarding / 1910.219(d)(1)
18. Electric - Listed and labeled equipment must be used or installed according to instructions / 1910.303(b)(2)
19. Lockout/tagout - Training and communication / 1910.147(c)(7)(i)
20. Abrasive wheel machinery - Must use work rests / 1910.215(a)(4)
21. Electric-Wiring methods, components and equipment-cabinets, boxes/covers/1910.305 (b)(2)
22. Compressed air-Reduce to less than 30 p.s.i. / 1910.242(b)
23. Lockout/tagout-Annual procedure inspection / 1910.147(c)(6)(i)
24. Personal protective equipment- Provide, use, maintain equipment in a sanitary and reliable condition / 1910.132(a)
25. **Hazard communication**-Maintain MSDSs / 1910.1200(g)(8)

Your help with HazCom procedure (WP12-IH.02-4) compliance and MSDS management is appreciated.

**Submitted by Curtis Potter, MSDS coordinator**

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The U.S. Department of Energy  
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Please send comments and/or  
suggestions to: [TRU TeamWorks](#)

